

various pass-outs if the Page would come forward. The first one I'm going to pass out is, who is eligible for compensation? I think you'll find Nebraska has one of the, if not the most tight qualifications for someone who will receive compensation. As the Pages pass it out, I hope you will look at this. Victims' compensation for physical injury suffered as a direct result, that's in our statutes, of violent criminal action if, and these are the qualifications, if the victim has no other source of recovery, which means civil suits against the criminal, or insurance, if they have none, if the victim violated no criminal law causing or contributing to their injuries or death; they must be an innocent victim; if the loss exceeds 10 percent of the victim's net financial resources. In other words, it's a pretty devastating thing to have more than 10 percent of your net financial resources expended because you were an innocent victim of a violent crime. You also have to make sure your application is submitted within two years of the offense. You have to have had reported it to the police within three days of the crime. It cannot be a property loss. We do not reimburse for property loss. And we do not reimburse for losses considered pain or suffering. Also, in Nebraska, we do not reimburse innocent victims of crime for physical injury if the members of the Legislature do not appropriate enough funds necessary to pay them. And that's why I come today. This is not one of my finest, best things to do, but I feel very strongly about victims, all victims. And when I saw the recommendation for the domestic violence to receive \$250,000 on top of the \$500,000 that they already get, while in statute we have these qualifications that we promise victims and we have cut our appropriation for compensation that is promised in our statutes from \$143,000 in '90-91 to 56,600. And, remember, these funds are augmented by federal funds, unlike the other funds that the state puts in. We...we have also received a letter, which I'm passing around now...

SENATOR CONWAY: One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...if the Page would come forward, with a letter from the National Association of Crime Victims Compensation Board, which says, in essence, Nebraska would become one of only two states without a crime victim compensation program if funding is not provided. In 48 other states, D.C. and the Virgin Islands, governments recognize that when innocent victims suffer financial loss from personal injuries due to violent crime there should be support for them